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THE Romulus News

JANUARY 10, 2003 – JANUARY 23, 2003 "the little paper" VOLUME 16 NUMBER 12

Timely Tidbits ...

'Explorer' Applicants Sought by RPD

Local high-school and college students (ages 14 to 21) who are interested in a career in law enforcement are invited to apply for the Romulus Police Department's "Police Explorers" program.

The program – designed to give students an inside look at police work – provides hands-on training and experience that has proven valuable to many past members who have gone on to pursue careers in police work.

Romulus Police Explorers train in several vital areas of law enforcement, such as traffic-stop procedures, building searches, and crime scene and accident investigations. Other training includes domestic-violence investigation, criminal law, and traffic law. Police Explorers also participate in a "ride along" program which gives trainees the opportunity to ride patrol with a real police officer.

For more information about the Romulus Police Explorers program and its eligibility requirements, or to obtain an application, please contact Officer Damian Hull at 734-942-6871.

Last Call for School Board Applications

To fill the vacancy that will be created by the January 10, 2003 retirement of its current president, Billy McCraight, the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education is accepting applications from citizens interested in serving as his replacement for the final six months of his term of office.

District residents who would like to be considered for the position must submit a paragraph explaining how they can contribute to the educational opportunities of Romulus children.

All applications must be turned in to Carole Bales, executive secretary to the superintendent of schools, at the district's administrative office (located at 36540 Grant Road) by 4 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2003. ❑

Recognition Month Celebrates Board Members' Efforts To Improve Our Children's Education

Members of the Romulus Community Schools Board of Education are: (from left) front – April Frayer, treasurer; Betty Lenossi, vice-president; Billy McCraight, president; and Cheryle Buckley, secretary; back – trustees Kenneth Mientkiewicz, Celeste Roscoe, and Michael Woods. (President McCraight has resigned his Board membership effective January 10, 2003. The Board will soon appoint a trustee to serve the remaining six months of his four-year term.)

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition Month – a time to salute the work of school board members and celebrate public education.

"The Romulus Board of Education certainly provides for the elements of this year's theme, which is 'They're Counting on You: Leadership for Learning'," said Joel R. Carr, superintendent of Romulus Community Schools. "In the past three years, 146 Romulus High School graduates have earned a total of $365,000 in MEAP scholarships, and district elementary schools have won $110,000 in State of Michigan Golden Apple awards."

Carr also believes that the Board has shown strong leadership in its support of superior educational facilities.

"Our district has been recognized for its outstanding modern buildings, technology programs, and equipment, as well as state-of-the-art athletic facilities such as our new 23,000-square-foot swimming complex," he stated.

Carr pointed out that Board policies have led to a number of significant achievements, including receipt of the North Central Association's prestigious "transitions" accreditation for all district schools. Another success story has been the Board's strategic plan to increase student achievement through the implementation of six district-wide initiatives in the areas of preschool preparation, school climate, health, curriculum alignment/assessment, technology, and parent involvement. Currently, Romulus Community Schools has a district-wide curriculum aligned with State of Michigan goals and benchmarks, and has earned the praise of U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige for successfully integrating technology into that curriculum. The Student-Parent-Teacher Compact created under the "parent involvement" initiative has resulted in 1,450 volunteers donating over 8,700 hours of time to the district in the past year, and cooperation with the Romulus Boys & Girls Club has led to the creation of a program that provides working parents with child care as late as 8:30 p.m. on weekdays.

Strong Board support has helped students achieve various successes at state-level competitions, too. Romulus students earned a first-division rating at the most recent State Band Festival, and captured first-place trophies at the State Social Studies Olympiad and the Girls' Track/Field State Championship during the 2001–2002 school year.

"The entire Romulus community can be very proud of the outstanding educational programs, facilities, and staff found in our school district," said Carr. "The Board of Education has worked carefully with students, parents, teachers, and administrators to provide the policies and leadership that make all these things happen.

"If you see a Board member around the community," he added, "please take a moment and thank him/her for all his/her diligent efforts toward the education of Romulus children." ❑

Guest Commentary

Editor's note: All letters to the editor MUST contain the writer's signature and a telephone number where he/she can be reached in order to verify the letter's authenticity.

Names will be withheld by request only in exceptional cases where, in our opinion, there is a legitimate reason to do so. (Writers need not be afraid to include their name when asking for anonymity, since all such names are kept in the strictest confidence, regardless of whether or not the letter is published.)

The Romulus News reserves the right to edit all letters for clarity and, if necessary, brevity.

Opinions expressed in the "Letters to the Editor" are not necessarily shared by the staff of The Romulus News.

"Selective" Separation of Church and State?

To the editor:

For whatever reason (diversity, multiculturalism, etc.), a concerted effort is being made by the powers-that-be to enhance relations with our Moslem population. Our schools have instituted a crash course on the teachings of the Koran, and programs have been implemented to allow kids to wear the long garments and head wear of Islam.

I understand that, last month, an entire fifth-grade class from a public school was to wear ethnic garments and attend a three-hour service at an Islamic temple. Letters were sent home to the parents, advising them of this venture.

Can you imagine the storm of protest and the legal ramifications which would ensue should one of the Christian teachers even suggest that the children attend a Christmas concert or the "Jesus Film" or even a Nativity drama at one of their churches? Where is the American Civil Liberties Union, and why is that group not contesting the teaching (and sanctioning, if you will) of Islamic religion in our tax-funded schools? Is it permissible now to teach "religion" in public schools? Why is one bible censored and another acceptable? Discrimination?

Lucille Raymond
Southgate

A Well-deserved Thanks

To the editor:

The Romulus Tower Senior Association would like to thank the following merchants and community members for their generous donations to our annual Christmas party:

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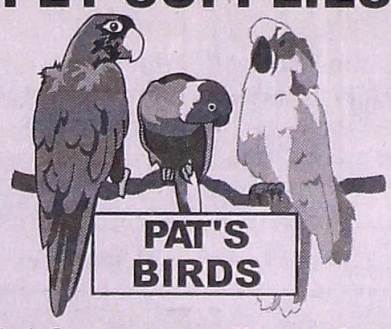

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Crime Blotter

Officer Damian Hull of the Romulus Police Department issued the following "Crime Blotter" reports during the four-week period between December 9, 2002, and January 6, 2003.

* * *

• **Larceny**
6700 block of Homefield
A lock was cut off a trailer and numerous power tools were stolen.

• **Breaking/Entering**
15900 block of Meadow
Entry was made through a garage window. Two rifles, a TV, a VCR, and numerous power tools were stolen.

• **Breaking/Entering**
600 block of Edmund
A rear door was forced open and a TV, DVD player, video camera, and computer were stolen.

• **Fraud/Forgery**
10421 Middlebelt (Bank One)
A suspect attempted to cash a forged check. The teller became suspicious and called RPD. The suspect fled prior to RPD's arrival.

• **Larceny**
30601 Eureka (Romulus Liquor)
One white female and one black female stole six packs of cigarettes.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
34000 block of Pinewoods Circle
Two tires were slashed on a 1999 Ford 4-door.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
5900 block of Pan Am
Two tires were slashed on a 1993 Chevy Corsica.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
39200 block of Wade
RPD responded to the location due to a large fight. Investigation revealed that the suspect had broken out the victim's vehicle window.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
16300 block of Dodge
A front window of the residence was broken out.

• **Larceny**
6100 block of Cogswell
An in-dash stereo, wallet, and garage door opener were stolen from a 2000 GMC pickup.

• **Breaking/Entering**
7000 block of Chippewa
A vacant mobile home was broken into. Large holes were kicked into the walls and mini-blinds were stolen from the windows.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
33900 block of Pinewoods Circle
One tire was slashed on a 1999 Honda 2-door.

• **Larceny**
Kent/Walnut area
A resident observed a white male breaking into vehicles. RPD patrol responded to the area and caught the suspect after a foot pursuit.

• **Attempted Breaking/Entering**
7000 block of Merriman
A rear garage door was found damaged.

• **Arson/Larceny**
28700 block of Highland
RFD responded to a vehicle fire and found a 1995 Ford Aeromax tractor with fire damage. Owner reported that a TV, laptop CPU, and CB radio were stolen.

• **Larceny**
30000 block of Halecreek
Clothing and CDs were stolen from a 1999 Lexus 4-door.

• **Larceny**
27416 Ecorse
A padlock was cut from the rear door of a tractor/trailer. Office supplies were stolen.

• **Stolen Vehicle**
34800 Goddard
A 1988 GMC Sierra pickup was stolen.

• **Larceny**
13500 block of Kent
Numerous power tools and a wallet were stolen from a 2001 Ford van.

• **Larceny**
29000 block of Airport Drive
A CB radio and CDs were stolen from a 1999 Freightliner.

• **Larceny**
35400 block of Wickham
Passenger-side tires were stolen from a 2000 Chrysler 4-door.

• **Stolen Vehicle**
35700 block of Garner
A 1997 Chevy van was stolen.

• **Breaking/Entering**
5900 block of Georgia
Entry was gained through a window on the front of the residence. The house was found ransacked, but nothing was stolen.

• **Breaking/Entering**
6700 block of Homefield
Entry was gained through a window. A large tool box was stolen.

• **Felonious Assault**
6800 block of Niagara
A 41-year-old female argued with a 22-year-old male about property. After the argument, the male returned with an unidentified male, who pointed a shotgun at the victim. No shots were fired.

continued on page 6

HELP WANTED • HELP WANTED
A new Romulus business is looking for someone with a smiling face and mature demeanor to do computer/telephone/sales work. Will train!
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Wagon Project Benefits Local Charity

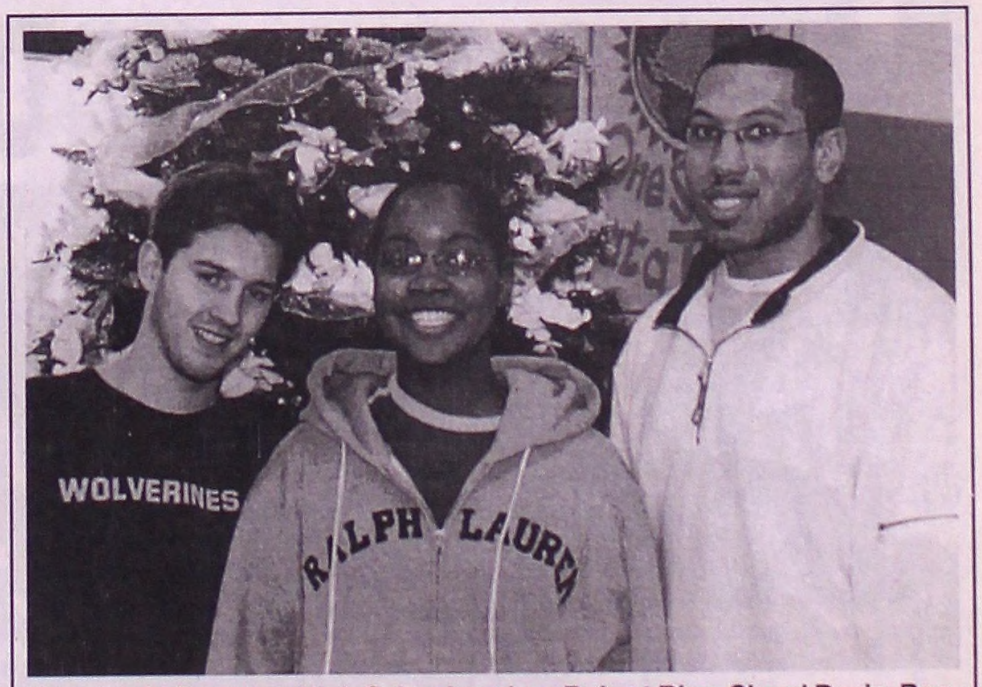
Community volunteers such as (back, from left) Fred Stafford and Lance Knudson came in on Saturdays to help Middle School teacher Frank Zarzycki and industrial arts students such as (front, from left) Rick Schonscheck, Jordan Moffat, Wayne Police, Heather Bavol, and Krystal Nault build wagons for Zarzycki's annual charity fund-raiser. Altogether, 50 wagons were made and sold for $20 each, and the resulting $1,000 was donated to the Helping Hand agency of Romulus.

4 RHS Students Marched in Thanksgiving Day Parade

Romulus High School seniors Ron Buckley, Sherri Davis, Leslie Perez, and Robert Rice were among hundreds of students from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties who were invited to march with the Blue Cross& Blue Shield Parade Honor Corps in the annual America's Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Detroit last November. RHS counselor Mae Jackson reported that, to be selected, a student had to have a high grade point average, be involved in school and community activities, and have an outgoing, gregarious personality.

"It really is an honor to be part of the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Parade Honor Corps," Jackson noted. "Each year, our students enjoy the opportunity to march in the parade and socialize with their peers from throughout Metro Detroit's tri-county area."

All four RHS students reported that they had a wonderful time taking part in the event, which has become a holiday tradition for millions of Metro Detroit residents. ❑



(From left) Romulus High School seniors Robert Rice, Sherri Davis, Ron Buckley, and (not pictured) Leslie Perez were among several hundred top students from Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties who were invited to march with the Blue Cross & Blue Shield Parade Honor Corps in the annual America's Thanksgiving Parade.

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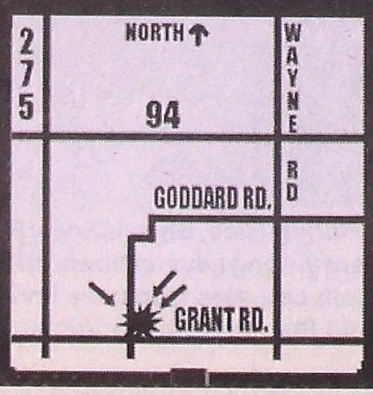

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Around the District

Congratulations (and best wishes for an occasional good night's sleep) to Romulus High School language arts teacher Jason Kahler, who received an early Christmas present when his wife gave birth to triplets.

(From left) Brad Burcroff, Deandre Brewer, Jasmine Abney, and Mariah Zockheem – trombonists from the Wick and Romulus elementary bands – practiced for the annual Christmas concert near Wick's mitten tree.

Parent coordinator Patty Vardy (right) was impressed with the big turnout for Romulus Elementary's Snowflake Dance. Attendees included Coree Kidd (front) and (from left) Braxton Craig, Lazonya Smith, and Cheryl Kidd.

Enjoying Wick Elementary School's recent Family Bingo Night were: (from left) front – Tiara Webb, Jason Casorso, Kaitlin Dorsey, and Robbie Webb; back – Kelly Coleman and Tasha Webb.

(From left) Romulus High School principal Dan Hurst worked with guest speaker Dr. Grenae Dudley and media specialist Alberta Garrett to present an outstanding Kwanzaa program that was viewed live by the students at the High School and via the new fiber-optic wide-area network (WAN) by the remainder of the district's students, teachers, and other staff members.

Sharon Mitchell (back, left), parent coordinator, and Renee Kish (back, right), social worker, congratulate the winners of Merriman's Red Ribbon anti-drug art/essay contest: (from left) front – Erasmos Sanchez, Jessica New, and Kierstyn Burns; middle – Marvin Bonner, Joshlyn Booth, Savannah Henry, Jasmine Harrington, Alesha Howington, Erick Radford, and Countren Blakeney; back – Chanel Smith, Jamie Brewer, and Adrian Brewer.

"The Crime Blotter"

continued from page 3

• **Larceny**
15200 block of Spruce Court
Two males were seen breaking into a vehicle and were chased off by the owner. K-9 tracking was unsuccessful.

• **Attempted Breaking/Entering**
J & M Towing
Glass was broken and an aluminum window was pried from the frame.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
Romulus High School
A north-side window was broken.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
6200 block of Fourth
The victim's vehicle was damaged by an ex-girlfriend.

• **Armed Robbery**
8498 Wayne (Video Fox)
An employee at the location reported that he was robbed at gunpoint. The suspect was described as a white male with blonde hair/goatee and armed with a "Mossberg" shotgun. A possible suspect vehicle was described as a 1988–1990 Cadillac Fleetwood. A total of $313 was stolen.

• **Larceny**
36300 block of Ecorse
$19,854 of aluminum stock was stolen from a business.

• **Breaking/Entering**
5900 block of Colorado
A suspect broke the patio door and stole a bag containing Christmas gifts.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
9500 Washington
The victim's vehicle was covered with lipstick, toilet paper, and raw eggs.

• **Child Abuse**
35000 block of Golden
The suspect fractured his eight-year-old daughter's arm after the daughter defended her mother during an argument.

• **Fraudulent Activity**
30601 Eureka (Romulus Liquor)
The suspect cashed a check – later found to be fraudulent – at the location.

• **Forgery**
30601 Eureka (Romulus Liquor)
A $350 check – later found to be forged – was cashed at the location.

• **Forgery**
30601 Eureka (Romulus Liquor)
A $280 check – later found to be forged – was cashed at the location.

• **Larceny**
15500 block of Meadow
An eight-foot inflatable "Grinch" Christmas display was stolen from a front yard.

• **Recovered Stolen Vehicle**
38700 block of Navajo Court
A 1997 Dodge Caravan was recovered. The vehicle was stolen in Westland on 12/11/02.

• **Attempted Robbery/Larceny**
27415 Van Born
An employee at the location observed a gas-pump nozzle on the pavement, and went outside to replace it. As the employee walked back inside, three black males attempted to knock the employee to the ground and enter the cash-register area, but the employee was able to lock himself into the area, instead. The suspects stole numerous candy bars and fled on foot.

• **Larceny**
28600 Northline
Four tires were stolen from a 1977 GMC pickup.

• **Breaking/Entering**
16200 E. Wind Street
Three bicycles were stolen from a locked shed.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
13600 block of Huron River Drive
Two paint balls were shot at a residence, striking a picture window.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
6300 block of Crystal Lake
The rear window of a 2002 Chevy Suburban was shattered.

• **Breaking/Entering**
10400 block of Harrison
Numerous power tools, a ladder, and 1,500 feet of copper wire were stolen from a locked semi-trailer.

• **Stolen Vehicle**
Baymont Hotel
A 1986 Buick 4-door was stolen from the parking lot.

• **Violation of Public Health Code (Narcotics)**
Merriman/Merriman Place area
A traffic stop resulted in the vehicle's driver being arrested for "driving while license suspended" and possession of "crack" cocaine.

• **Larceny**
8600 Wickham
The rear window of a vehicle was broken out and Christmas presents were stolen.

• **Fraud**
35700 block of Smith
The victim's ATM card was reported missing. The victim's account shows that someone has been using her ATM card without her permission.

• **Fraud**
30601 Eureka
A $310 check – later discovered to be fraudulent – was cashed at the location.

• **Larceny**
8300 block of Merriman
The rear window of a vehicle was broken out, and a cell phone and Windsor Tunnel tokens were stolen.

• **Homicide Arrest**
30325 Flynn (Extended Stay Hotel)
Officers responded to the hotel after receiving a 9-1-1 call in which the caller stated that he had been stabbed. The officers forced entry into the room after receiving no answer at the door. Upon entry, the officers found that the caller was alive, but he had cut his own wrists. During a search of the room, the officers found a recently served Personal Protection Order protecting the caller's ex-wife. The officers then had RPD dispatch contact Southfield PD, where the ex-wife resided, and asked Southfield PD to check on the wife's well-being. Upon checking the residence, Southfield PD found the ex-wife murdered. A search warrant on the hotel room was executed by Southfield PD and the alleged murder weapon was recovered. The original caller was arrested and turned over to Southfield PD on suspicion of homicide.

• **Larceny**
Clarion Hotel
A vehicle was broken into and numerous items were stolen.

• **Criminal Sexual Conduct**
8600 block of Whitehorn
The suspect and a witness were visiting at the location. The suspect entered the victim's room while she was asleep and began touching the victim between the legs, waking the victim. The victim then yelled at the suspect, causing the suspect to flee.

• **Embezzlement**
39000 block of Ecorse
An employee issued money orders in the amounts of $250 and $200 without depositing cash. The employee was fired and charges are pending.

• **Larceny**
9500 block of Middlebelt
The victim reported that her wallet was stolen from her coat pocket, which was hanging at her desk.

• **Larceny**
39000 block of Scotsdale
A seven-month-old pitbull was stolen from outside the location. The dog was found several blocks away and returned to the owner.

• **Larceny**
35000 block of Ecorse
A 1978 Ford tractor/backhoe and 1971 Gerard tri-axle trailer were stolen from the location.

• **Larceny**
15000 block of Plainway
The victim stated that a cell phone he ordered in 2001 never arrived. The victim then received a phone bill for $1,300. Phone company records show that the phone was delivered to another address.

• **Larceny**
30000 block of Leroy
The victim's ex-girlfriend stole a check from the victim. The check was then endorsed by the suspect and cashed in Lincoln Park.

• **Breaking/Entering**
28000 block of Willow Tree
The suspect entered a residence by prying open a bedroom window. It was unknown, at the time of this report, if anything had been stolen.

• **Felonious Assault**
15400 block of Oakbrook
The suspect waved a knife at his live-in girlfriend. The suspect was arrested at the scene.

• **Armed Robbery**
39390 Ecorse (7-Eleven)
Two black males wearing masks stole $100 at gunpoint. (The suspects were armed with a small, black, semi-auto handgun.) The clerk at the location was unharmed. The suspects fled the location on foot.

• **Malicious Destruction of Property**
9200 block of Washington
A vehicle's windshield was shattered by the victim's cousin. No prosecution was sought.

• **Violation of Public Health Code (Narcotics)**
9191 Wickham
Officers responded to the location for a possible domestic argument. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was in possession of cocaine. The suspect was arrested.

• **Stolen Vehicle**
35400 block of Garner
The victim heard his car alarm going off and looked out his window. The victim then observed his ex-girlfriend driving away in his vehicle.

• **Embezzlement**
30600 Henry Ruff
An employee stole $800 from the business. ❑

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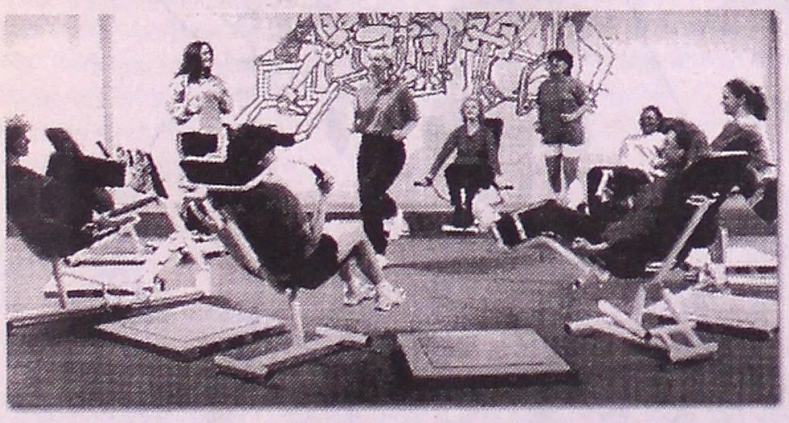

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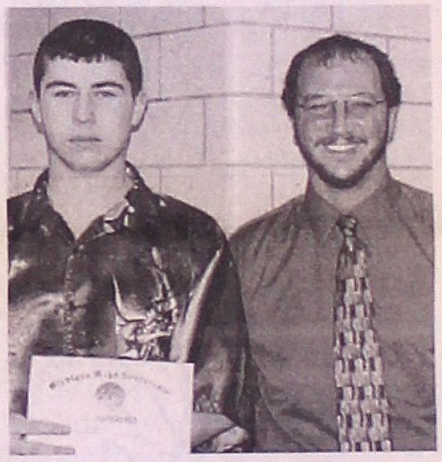
Awesome Athletes

Ronda McAllister (left), named "girls' basketball coach of the year" in the Mega Blue League, presented the three All-League players from her Mega Blue championship team: (from left) Janiece Armstrong, Brittany Brooks, and Paris Hawkins.

Wade Cook (right), head coach of the Romulus High School varsity football team, was very proud to announce that his star running back, senior Christopher Middlebrooks, was selected to the All-Mega White League's football team.



KarlWukie (right), assistant coach of the RHS golf team, presented the All-Mega Gold award to Roy Hollis, the team's number-one player. Hollis finished second individually at the league meet and averaged 40.5 strokes per 9-hole match during the season.

All-Conference soccer honoree Jason Singleton was congratulated by head coach Angela Siggia (right) and assistant coach Stephanie Carpenter. Also selected to the All-League team was Ryan Henne (not pictured).

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Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 20th

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on January 20th by joining us for the 8:30 a.m. Walk for Warmth march from Romulus Middle School to Romulus High School and the Dr. King Commemoration program that will follow. See page 9 for details.

Romulus Community Schools Board of Education and Staff

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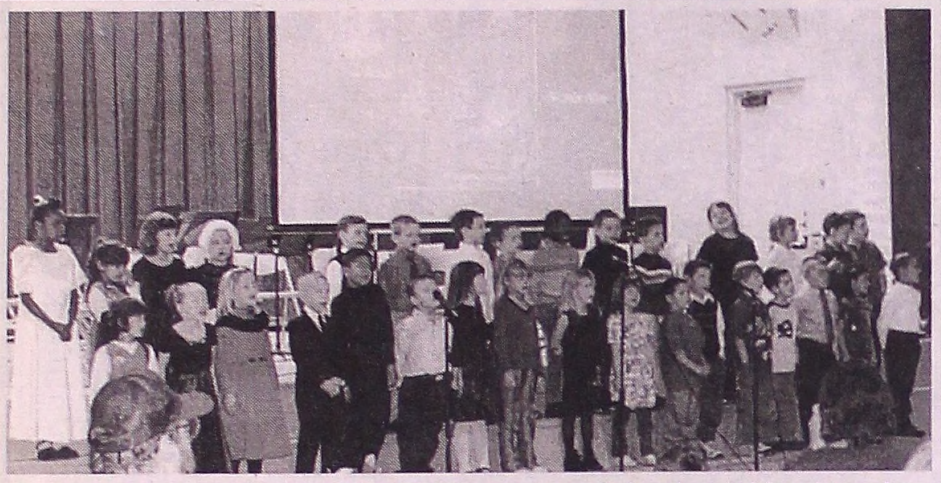
Holiday Music



The first-grade classes at Barth Elementary School combined to sing holiday songs while art teacher Carrie Smith showed off some of their Christmas card designs on an overhead projector.

Barth band students – including (from left) Joey Herbert, Michael Lovelady, Breana Keels, Jeremy Streeter, Daijah Street, and Mary Ann Watt – were very excited as they prepared for their holiday concert, which featured performances by both the beginning and concert bands.

Students from Barth Elementary teacher Kathy Motyka's second-grade class – including (from left) Aaronn Arthur, Jennifer Cronk, Ashley Podczervinski, Andre Temple-Young, Kevin Krampitz, Brittany Braxton, Alicia Long, and Christian Mascorro – had their Kwanzaa costumes and their voices ready for the school's holiday concert. They joined students from the classes of Beccy Montroy and Lauren Withey to present several selections.

Walk, Commemorative Program Set for January 20 Will Honor Dr. King

Romulus Community Schools and the City of Romulus will honor the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., with a number of activities set for Monday, January 20.

In keeping with this year's theme – "Coming Together for the Common Good: Remember! Celebrate! Act!" – the morning will kick off with the second annual Walk for Warmth, which will begin at Romulus Middle School at 8:30 a.m. (Coffee will be available in the RMS cafeteria starting at 8 a.m.) Participants are asked to bring new or "gently used" gloves, hats, scarves, coats, and/or blankets for donation to the Romulus Helping Hand agency. Nonperishable food items are also welcome.

At the conclusion of the Walk for Warmth, which will wind up at Romulus High School, a continental breakfast will be served in the school's cafeteria.

At 9:45 a.m., a commemorative program will be held in the High School auditorium. It will feature words of inspiration from several local dignitaries as well as various skits and musical selections.

There is no charge to participate in these events, which are open to all.

GM Powertrain Donates $9,000 to the RHS Robotics Team

Representatives from GM Powertrain Romulus Engine and Transmission Operations recently donated $9,000 to the Romulus High School Robotics Team for its upcoming competitive season.

Myrle Gorsline, engineering manager of Romulus Engine Operations; Rick O'Donnell, United Auto Workers Local 163 shop chairman; and Kevin Gay, engineering design staff member, joined Ram Ramanujam, engineering manager of Romulus Transmission Operations, for the presentation.

"Each year, the RHS Robotics Club enters competitions at Eastern Michigan University and Grand Rapids with the hope of reaching the national finals in Orlando, Florida," explained Romulus Community Schools spokesperson Dick Kruse. "On January 4, a national telecast explained the rules for this year's competition. Raw materials such as electric motors, sheets of steel, pipes, and wiring will be sent out to the participants. The teams will then have six weeks to design, build, and test their robots with the goal of defeating other teams in the competition."

Romulus students will work with GM's engineers to come up with a robot design that will achieve the optimum in task performance and endurance. Robotics advisor Terry Bird explained that the design team must take many factors into account if they want their robot to compete successfully. Several years ago, for instance, the strength of the metal used for the electric motor shaft was not sufficient. This resulted in several drive-shaft breaks and an early exit from the competition.

The Robotics Club students say they are eagerly looking forward to this year's challenges and competing against several thousand teams from across the United States and Canada. ❑

(From left) front – Ram Ramanujam, engineering manager, Transmission Operations; Rick O'Donnell, UAW Local 163 shop chairman; Myrle Gorsline, engineering manager, Engine Operations; Doug Hoffman, assistant principal, RHS; and Kevin Gay, engineering designer; back – Jane Johnson, math/technology teacher, RHS; students Ken Booker, Scott Williams, Scott Blackburn, Philip Roscoe, Eric Poet, and Gavin Hulet; David Cooper, student teacher; and Terry Bird, industrial technology teacher.

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WMU Student Teachers Work Hard at Halecreek Elementary

(From left) Kristen Gordon, Katrina Borg, Jessica Randles, Angela Drabicki, and Kara Woodhams – all from Western Michigan University – are completing their student teaching experiences at Halecreek Elementary School in Romulus.

Tom Dolan, curriculum director for the Romulus Community Schools, is proud that Western Michigan University continues to use Halecreek Elementary School as one of its training sites for student teachers.

"Our cooperative effort with WMU lends prestige to both Halecreek Elementary and the Romulus school district," said Dolan. He went on to note that the district also cooperates in a similar project between Western and Romulus High School, which is currently playing host to eight student teachers from the university.

Halecreek staff members who work closely with the WMU student teachers include learning center specialist Cherryl Brackney and kindergarten teacher Cathy Kudra. Both frequently travel to Kalamazoo to meet with university officials and act as mentors for the aspiring young teachers. Western also sends various members of the university's staff to observe and offer constructive comments about the student teachers' performance as they present their lessons in Halecreek's classrooms.

WMU student teachers currently working at Halecreek include:

- *Kristen Gordon* – Kristen Gordon, who works with second-grade teacher Sandra Godbout, is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and the soccer team.
- *Katrina Borg* – Katrina Borg, a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School, was active in the National Honor Society and the student council. She works with third-grade teacher Donna Small.
- *Jessica Randles* – Jessica Randles, who works with Cathy Kudra, is a graduate of Garden City High School, where she was a member of the track team.
- *Angela Drabicki* – Angela Drabicki, a Plymouth Salem High School graduate who was active in the National Honor Society, works with first-grade teacher Candace Walters.
- *Kara Woodhams* – Kara Woodhams, who works with fourth-grade teacher Pat Coleman, is a graduate of Coldwater High, where she played in the band and took part in a special teacher intern program.

Christmas Party

Among those doing an outstanding job organizing the annual Romulus Community Schools employee Christmas party were the following committee members: (from left) front – Kim Fultz, Mary Mahon, Evelyn Koerber, Karen Kusibab, and Kim Wells; back – Lisa Hadyniak, Rick Hadyniak, Linda Madej, Betty Cantrell, John Hadyniak, Joann Prater, Carole Bales, Tyra Payne, Jenny Prater, Edie Schneider, Kay Camilleri (who also catered an outstanding buffet dinner), and Cathy Crawford. Music department chairman Mark Fernandez (not pictured) was a rousing success as the DJ for this enjoyable event.

Also enjoying themselves at the party were (back, from left) Board of Education secretary Cheryle Buckley and her husband Ronald, as well as Board trustee Celeste Roscoe and her husband Robert.

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Community Calendar

- **Open Swimming** – Open swimming will be offered at Romulus High School's new pool complex (located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94) from 6 to 8:30 p.m. according to the following schedule: ***Adults Only*** (Mondays), ***Seniors (age 60+) Only*** (Tuesdays), ***Teens (ages 13–17) Only*** (Wednesdays), and ***Family Swimming*** (Fridays). To participate, all swimmers *must* preregister at the Romulus Adult and Community Education Office, located at 39000 Superior. Cost for residents is $3 per session ($2 for senior citizens) or $60 for an all-year pass ($40 for senior citizens). Family passes – a real bargain! – are available to Romulus residents for just $100 per year. For more information, call 734-532-1953.
- **Board of Education to Meet at Barth** – In keeping with its decision to take half its meetings to the community, the Romulus Board of Education will hold its January 13 meeting at Barth Elementary School. Among the agenda items will be presentations on health and elementary electives. Presenters will include physical-education teacher Sheila Stasak and district nurse Laura Ralko. Start time is 6:30 p.m.
- **Healthy Living Committee** – The Romulus Healthy Living Committee will meet at Romulus Adolescent Health Center in Romulus High School (located at 9650 South Wayne Road, just north of I-94) from 12:30 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, January 16. For more information, please call Diane Vidovic, RAHC director, at 734-941-1400.
- **Walk Commemorates Dr. King's Life and Work** – The Romulus Community Schools and the City of Romulus invite citizens of all ages to participate in the second annual Walk for Warmth on Monday, January 20, 2003. Walkers – who will depart from the Middle School at 8:30 a.m. and proceed to the High School, where a continental breakfast will be served – are asked to bring donations of new or "gently used" hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, coats, or blankets, and/or nonperishable food items. A program celebrating the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will follow at 9:45 a.m. in the RHS auditorium. For more information, call Kathy Hurst (734-532-1016).
- **Mayor Lambert to Speak at Chamber Luncheon** – Mayor Alan R. Lambert will be the guest speaker at the next Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce luncheon, set for January 21. For time, location, and ticket info, call Karen Bell, executive assistant, at the Chamber: 734-326-4290.
- **Cable Commission Meeting** – The next meeting of the Romulus Cable Commission will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, in the Council Chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road, at Goddard Road). The meeting will be televised on cable channel 12.
- **AAU Basketball Tryouts** – The Future Youth Travel Basketball Team is looking for seventh- and eighth-grade boys (ages 13–14) interested in playing in tournaments. Tryouts will be held at Romulus Elementary School (located at 32200 Beverly Road) on February 7, 14, and 28 according to the following schedule: last names beginning with A–K – 4 to 6 p.m.; last names beginning with L–Z, 6:15 to 8:30 p.m. (Note: Students are asked to arrive at least 10 minutes before their scheduled tryout time.) For more information, or to obtain a registration form, call Coach Green at 734-941-2057.
- **Chamber to Host Silent Auction/Wine-tasting/Dinner** – The Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce will host its fourth annual Silent Auction and Wine-tasting/Dinner on Friday, February 14, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Romulus. Tickets ($30 per person) are available from Chamber board members or the Chamber office. For more information, contact Karen Bell, executive assistant, at 734-326-4290. (Note: Donations of items for the auction are welcomed and appreciated.)
- **Mother's Morning Out** – Ball Road Tabernacle invites you to drop off your children (ages 2 to 5) for a program of play time, stories, crafts, and lunch, while you enjoy a morning free to run errands. The service is available at the church (located on the corner of Ecorse and Ball roads, west of Merriman) each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 734-722-9638.
- **Eating-disorder Support Group** – People who suffer from disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, and compulsive eating can attend support-group meetings at St. Paul Lutheran Church (2550 Edsel Drive, Trenton) each Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 734-324-3089.

To place information in our next issue's Community Calendar, mail it to "the little paper" at P.O. Box 74038, Romulus, MI 48174–0038; FAX it to us at 734-992-2052; or call 734-941-1907

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- Quiz Bowl
- Award-Winning Yearbook
- National Honor Society
- Outdoor Challenge

Athletics:

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Football	Volleyball
Baseball	Softball
Boys' Golf	Girls' Golf
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Swimming	Equestrian
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4th Grade	1 Space Available
5th Grade	5 Spaces Available
Miller Elementary School	**(734) 753-4421**
1st Grade	5 Spaces Available
2nd Grade	1 Space Available
3rd Grade	5 Spaces Available
4th Grade	5 Spaces Available
5th Grade	1 Space Available
Renton Junior High	**(734) 782-2483**
6th Grade	5 Spaces Available
7th Grade	2 Spaces Available
8th Grade	3 Spaces Available
Huron High School	**(734) 782-1436**
9th Grade	5 Spaces Available
10th Grade	5 Spaces Available
11th Grade	5 Spaces Available

Applications are available at all District buildings and must be returned to the Superintendent's Office by January 14, 2003. (32044 Huron River Drive, New Boston, MI 48164 / 734-782-2441) A lottery drawing will take place if more applications are received than slots available.

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Recreation News

Our thanks to Herbert Buckley, Director, City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, and Kristin Irwin, Recreation Coordinator, for supplying information for the "Recreation News" column.

* * *

Unless otherwise noted, registration for the following programs should be made at the Romulus Recreation Center (36515 Bibbins) during its regular hours (weekdays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.). For more information, stop in at the Center or call 734-942-6852.

Contest Winners

The Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation conducted its annual "city lights" tour/decorating contest on December 12, 2002. A bus – loaded with 13 local "tourists" who doubled as judges – traveled around Romulus in search of the three most beautifully decorated homes that reflected the spirit of the holiday season.

After careful evaluation by the tour participants, the three houses receiving a point-total average closest to the 10-point maximum possible score were deemed the winners. They were:

- first place (9.6 points) – $100: 6600 Ball Road
- second place (7.8 points) – $25: 14825 S. Huron River Drive
- third place (7.5 points) – $15 6554 Ball Road

The Romulus Recreation Department would like to thank all the residents who entered the contest and all the judges who participated in the tour.

Adult Kickboxing

The Romulus Recreation Department's next Adult Kickboxing class will be held at Romulus Elementary School on Beverly Road each Tuesday and Thursday evening from January 14 through March 20.

Cost is $79 for two days per week, $50 for one day per week, or $7 per class. Registration deadline is Monday, January 13.

Tae Kwon Do

The Recreation Department's next Tae Kwon Do session for ages 5 to adult will be held in the Romulus High School wrestling room each Tuesday and Thursday from January 14 through March 13 according to the following schedule:

- ages 5 to 7: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- ages 8 to adult: 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Cost is $45 for one student; $75 for two students from the same family; or $90 for three family members. Registration deadline is Monday, January 13.

Gymnastics #1

The Recreation Department's "Itty-Bitty Bunny" daytime gymnastics program for children ages 18 months to 5 years will be held at the Coleman Center on Beverly Road each Monday from January 13 to February 24 according to the following schedule:

- parent/tot class (ages 18 months to 2½ years): 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
- ages 3 to 4: 12:45 to 1:30 p.m.
- age 5: 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.

Cost is $60 per session for the seven-week session. Deadline for registration is Friday, January 10.

Gymnastics #2

The next Tumblebunnies gymnastics program for boys and girls ages 3 and up will be held at the Recreation Center each Tuesday from January 14 to February 25 according to the following schedule:

- ages 3 to 4: 6 to 6:45 p.m.
- ages 5 to 7: 6:45 to 7:30 p.m.
- ages 8 and up: 7:30 to 8:15 p.m.

Cost is $60 for the seven-week session. Registration deadline is Monday, January 13. ❑

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BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you are a resident of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your new addition (child or grandchild). If possible, please enclose a photograph of your new arrival. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Siblings _____
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Maternal Grandparents _____
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City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Paternal Grandparents _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

If you, or your parents, are residents of Romulus, *The Romulus News* will be happy to print an announcement of your engagement or wedding. If possible, please enclose a photograph. There is no charge. Just fill out the following information and mail to:

THE ROMULUS NEWS
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Bride's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Name _____
City _____ State _____
Bride's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Groom's Parents _____
City _____ State _____
Bridesmaids _____
Groomsmen _____
Date of Engagement _____
Date of Wedding _____
Place _____
City _____ State _____
Reception _____
City _____ State _____
Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):
_____

Attach any additional information
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.

Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator for the City of Romulus, and Melissa Morton, Manager of the Romulus Tower, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column.

(For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins, call 734-942-6852.)

Club #1 Wants You!

The local senior group known as Club #1 meets at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m. Future meetings dates include:

- January 14 (inauguration of officers, birthdays, lunch, and games);
- January 21 (meeting, games, and bag lunch); and
- January 28 (meeting, pot luck, and bingo).

New faces are always welcome.

Free Tax Preparation

From February 5 through April 9, volunteers from the American Association of Retired Persons will be available at the Romulus Senior Center each Wednesday from 12:30 to 3 p.m. (by appointment only) to assist low-income Romulus seniors (age 60 and older) with the preparation of their Federal and State 1040 forms, as well as forms for homestead property tax credits, home-heating credits, and prescription credits.

A list of materials which must be brought to the appointment will be provided at the time of registration.

For more information, or to make an appointment, call or stop in at the Center.

"Intergenerational Program" Meeting

On Friday, January 17, at 12 p.m., the Romulus Senior Center will host a meeting for seniors who would like to be involved in the planning of future "intergenerational" programs with Romulus students. Attendees will also have a chance to meet some of the young people who will be taking part in the programs.

Light refreshments will be served during the meeting.

January Luncheon

The Senior Center's next monthly luncheon – set for Friday, January 24, beginning at noon – will feature a "hospitality" theme. All those who plan to attend must bring in a can of their favorite vegetable or soup (the only "cost" of admission) by Wednesday, January 22, so that all the ingredients can be mixed together to make a deliciously different "hospitality soup." (The remainder of the menu will consist of bread, dessert, and a beverage.)

Also on hand to share in the food and fun will be seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. Aloysius School.

Old and new friends are welcome.

Lunch Out

The Senior Center van will depart for this month's "Lunch Out" destination – 3 Brothers – at approximately 11 a.m. on Friday, January 17. Transportation is $1.50 per person; cost of the meal is not included. Sign up at the Center.

Shopping

Romulus senior citizens are invited to ride the Center's van to shop at the following locations:

- Farmer Jack/Wal-Mart – Monday, January 13; van departs at 9:30 a.m.
- Kmart – Monday, January 27; van departs at 9:30 a.m.

Cost of transportation is just $1.50 per person.

Weekly Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- Ceramics (Mondays, 1 and 6 p.m.),
- Club #1 (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

Computers, Internet Service Available

Just a reminder that seniors who need access to a computer to learn or practice new skills may use the computers at the Romulus Senior Center, free of charge. Internet service is also available. Appointments are strongly advised.

Ask the Attorney

Local attorney Steve Robinson's monthly "Ask the Attorney" program – a free consultation service for Romulus senior citizens – has been scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, at the Center. Walk-ins (36515 Bibbins) and call-ins (734-942-6852) welcome.

Haircuts

The Romulus Senior Center's next haircut date is set for Monday, January 27, beginning at 9 a.m. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable ($5) program, call the Center to make an appointment. Note: Haircut clients are asked to wash their hair before coming to their appointment, as the Center does not have the necessary facilities.

Christmas Cards Accepted

The Romulus Senior Center is once again collecting used Christmas cards. Just drop them off at the Center. ❑

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Obituaries

John D. Darnell

John D. Darnell of Westland, Michigan, passed away on Monday, December 30, 2002, at the age of 83.

John – a former resident of Romulus, Michigan – was born on May 20, 1919, in Manchester, Tennessee. The World War II veteran served his country in both the Navy and the Army, and worked as a carpenter building homes. He was a history buff with a special interest in the Civil War, and also enjoyed hunting, fishing, gardening, reading, traveling, and country music.

Surviving John are his wife of 50 years, Darlene (Gaus) Darnell; a son, Charles (Barbara) Darnell (Farmington Hills, MI); a daughter, Mary Katherine (Patrick) Hibbeln (Garden City, MI); two grandsons, Timothy C. Darnell and Eric John Darnell; and many nieces and nephews. Among those who preceded him in death were nine siblings.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, January 2, 2003, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with the Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Violet F. Meyer

Violet F. Meyer of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2003. She was 82 years old.

Born in Augusta Township, Michigan, on June 29, 1920, Violet was a lifelong area resident who enjoyed being with and caring for her family.

She is survived by a son, Lloyd (Susan) Meyer (Romulus); four sisters, Esther (Frank) Lloyd (Romulus), Hazel Anderson (Milan, MI), Pearl Copp (Ann Arbor, MI), and Shirley Schettler (Belleville, MI); six grandchildren; and many great-grandchildren. Among those who predeceased her were her husband, Bennett Meyer (September 2, 1976), and three sons, Walter, Gary, and Bennie Meyer.

A funeral service was held on Friday, January 3, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Father John R. Hagan (Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville) officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Ellis M. Parsons

Ellis M. Parsons of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, December 14, 2002, at the age of 94.

Ellis – born in Jackson, Tennessee, on January 10, 1908 – was a deacon of the First Baptist Church of Romulus. An avid sports fan, he also enjoyed fishing, gardening, cooking, and traveling.

Surviving Ellis are 10 children, Charles (Doris) Parsons (Detroit, MI), Harold (Leona) Parsons (Inkster, MI), Ellis (Saundra) Parsons (Belleville, MI), Parille Dupree (Romulus), Bettye Martin (Romulus), Marjorie Jeffries (Westland, MI), Christine Anderson (Romulus), Shirley Miles (Ann Arbor, MI), Barbara Myers (Ann Arbor), and Sharon (John) Calloway (Belleville); a sister, Beatrice (Paul) Smith (Detroit); 22 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and 5 great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Clara (Pickens) Parsons, on August 20, 1985.

A funeral service was held on Thursday, December 19, at the First Baptist Church, with the Reverend Charles P. Woolridge officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery.

Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Eugene W. Perecki

Eugene W. Perecki of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Sunday, December 15, 2002, at the age of 74.

Born on November 17, 1928, Eugene was the former owner of Walter's Bar and the Romulus Lanes bowling alley – local business landmarks that were first opened in 1946 and 1948, respectively, by his parents, Walter and Helen Perecki, and which remained in the Perecki family for more than 50 years.

Eugene is survived by his wife, Sylvia; four children, Stephanie (Robert) Wagle, Terry (Denise) Perecki, Michael (Kelly) Perecki, and Tonya (Chuck) Zorn; and nine grandchildren, Matthew, Ashley, Amanda, Hailey, Natalia, Abigale, Anistasia, Brittany, and Zackary.

A funeral service was held on Wednesday, December 18, at Salowich & Stevens Funeral Home (Detroit, MI), with mass said at St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Byzantine Catholic Church. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (Southfield, MI).

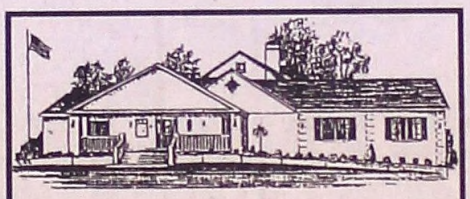
Barbara Ruth Washelewski

Barbara Ruth Washelewski of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Monday, December 9, 2002. She was 66 years old.

Barbara – born on January 1, 1936, in Vanceburg, Kentucky – was a former Woodhaven Public Schools employee (1970–1996) and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary at St. Stephen Catholic Church (New Boston, MI).

She is survived by three sons, Lawrence A. (Oak Park, MI), Jeffery C. (Taylor, MI), and Paul Waselewski (Brownstown, MI); a daughter, Mrs. Larry (Brenda S.) Corman (Taylor); five brothers, John (Dearborn Heights, MI), Fred T. (Lincoln Park, MI), Carl (Carleton, MI), Roy (Gunnersville, AL), and Bill Osborne (Portsmouth, OH); two sisters, Mrs. Frank (Margaret) Dalip (Louisville, KY) and Mrs. Ron (Thelma) Nickell (Woodhaven, MI); ten grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Among those who predeceased her were her husband, Julius Washelewski (1990); her parents, Ireland and Fern (Stone) Osborne (1985 and 1984, respectively); and a brother, Earl Osborne (1979).

A funeral mass was held on Friday, December 13, at St. Stephen Church, with Father Alexander Wytrwal officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock). Arrangements were made by Crane Funeral Home (Romulus). Memorial tributes may be made in the form of mass cards or donations to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association. ❑



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Dylan Marcus Allgood

Dylan Marcus Allgood

Neal and Tara Allgood of Romulus, Michigan, are proud to announce the birth of their new son, Dylan Marcus.

Dylan was born in Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital (Wyandotte, MI) at 4:35 p.m. on Saturday, December 7, 2002, weighing in at 9 pounds, 12 ounces, and measuring 21 inches in length.

Especially excited about the new arrival was his big brother, Devin Michael Allgood.

Also giving Dylan a warm welcome into his new family were his paternal grandparents, Marcus and Linda Allgood (Romulus), and his maternal grandparents, Daniel and Katherine Adamus (Pickney, MI). ❑

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